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### Wholesale trade sales (Preliminary)

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## Summary of findings: Wholesale trade sales

**Table A – Key figures as at the end of March 2009**

Wholesale trade sales estimates	March 2009 (R million)	% change between March 2008 and March 2009	% change between January to March 2008 and January to March 2009
At current prices	82 369	-1,0	0,6
At constant 2000 prices	45 862	-5,9	-6,2

Seasonally adjusted estimates	March 2009 (R million)	% change between February and March 2009	% change between October to December 2008 and January to March 2009
At current prices	83 917	0,3	-5,8
At constant 2000 prices	45 887	0,4	-5,4

## Key findings as at the end of March 2009

### Wholesale trade sales in real terms decrease

**Wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the first quarter of 2009 decreased by 6,2% compared with the first quarter of 2008, while growth for the same period in 2008 was 6,8%. Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for the first quarter of 2009 decreased by 5,4% compared with the fourth quarter of 2008.**

Wholesale trade sales, at constant (2000) prices, for March 2009 decreased by 5,9% compared with March 2008, the third consecutive decline this year.

Wholesale trade sales, at current prices, for the first quarter of 2009 increased by 0,6% compared with the first quarter of 2008. The major contributors to this increase were dealers in food, beverages and tobacco (2,4 percentage points) and dealers in other goods (1,7 percentage points) – see Table B on page 3.

Wholesale trade sales at current prices for March 2009 decreased by 1,0% compared with March 2008, while sales for the corresponding period in 2008 increased by 19,1%.

**Table B – Contribution of each type of dealer to the percentage change in wholesale trade sales at current prices**

Type of wholesale dealer	Sales January to March 2008 (R million)	Weight <sup>1/</sup>	Sales January to March 2009 (R million)	Difference in sales between January to March 2008 and January to March 2009 (R million)	Percentage change between January to March 2008 and January to March 2009	Contribution (percentage points) to the percentage change in total sales <sup>2/</sup>
Contract or fee basis	10 246	4,3	9 441	-805	-7,9	-0,3
Agricultural raw materials and livestock	9 396	4,0	10 133	737	7,8	0,3
Food, beverages and tobacco	39 543	16,8	45 174	5 631	14,2	2,4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	6 888	2,9	6 898	10	0,1	0,0
Other household goods except precious stones	21 650	9,2	23 806	2 156	10,0	0,9
Precious stones, jewellery and silverware	4 247	1,8	2 593	-1 654	-38,9	-0,7
Solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products	45 263	19,2	40 155	-5 108	-11,3	-2,2
Metals and metal ores	10 351	4,4	7 850	-2 501	-24,2	-1,1
Construction and building materials	12 068	5,1	10 558	-1 510	-12,5	-0,6
Other intermediate products, waste and scrap	8 525	3,6	8 243	-282	-3,3	-0,1
Machinery, equipment and supplies	48 907	20,8	49 647	740	1,5	0,3
Other goods	18 534	7,9	22 451	3 917	21,1	1,7
<b>Total <sup>3/</sup></b>	<b>235 617</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>236 949</b>	<b>1 332</b>	<b>0,6</b>	<b>0,6</b>

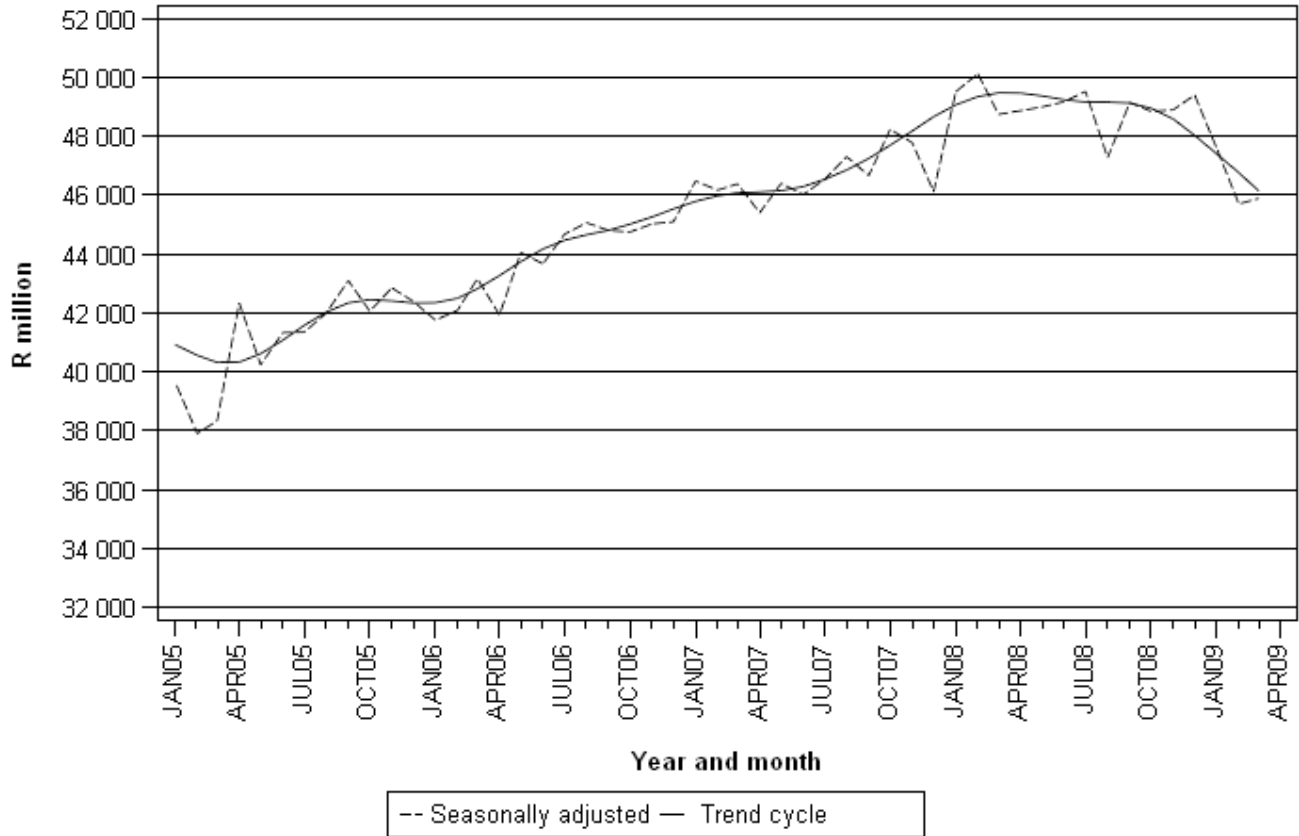
<sup>1/</sup> Weight is the percentage contribution of each type of dealer to the total wholesale trade sales for the three months up to the current month of the previous year.

<sup>2/</sup> The contribution to the percentage change is calculated by multiplying the percentage change of each type of dealer with its corresponding weight.

<sup>3/</sup> The figures have been rounded off. Therefore, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and the totals.

Figure 1 below shows the seasonally adjusted and trend patterns for wholesale trade sales at constant (2000) prices between January 2005 and March 2009.

**Figure 1 – Wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices**



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**Detailed results**

Outlined below in Table 1 are wholesale trade sales according to type of dealer.

**Table 1 – Total wholesale trade sales according to the type of dealer at current prices (R million)**

Year and month <sup>1/</sup>		Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E	Type F	Type G	Type H	Type I	Type J	Type K	Type L	Total <sup>2/</sup>
<b>2007</b>	<b>January</b>	2 679	2 164	11 629	1 641	5 688	739	10 503	2 388	2 841	2 431	12 605	5 498	60 806
	<b>February</b>	3 124	2 574	11 486	2 170	6 727	1 241	10 473	2 845	3 562	2 326	13 011	5 682	65 220
	<b>March</b>	3 118	2 249	11 342	2 523	6 654	2 005	11 540	2 875	3 857	2 334	14 965	6 370	69 832
	<b>April</b>	3 388	2 128	11 029	2 326	6 971	1 883	10 946	2 731	3 359	2 362	12 063	4 875	64 062
	<b>May</b>	3 275	2 820	11 890	2 442	7 763	1 899	12 632	3 144	4 019	2 633	13 864	6 161	72 542
	<b>June</b>	3 343	2 923	12 341	1 781	7 159	1 936	12 840	3 024	4 066	2 772	14 343	6 125	72 651
	<b>July</b>	3 348	2 786	12 235	2 097	7 261	1 242	13 429	2 972	3 984	2 897	15 414	6 587	74 253
	<b>August</b>	3 648	2 696	12 263	2 853	7 738	1 181	13 530	3 343	3 999	3 142	15 816	6 555	76 764
	<b>September</b>	3 265	2 661	13 339	3 042	7 529	2 097	12 684	2 912	3 980	2 756	14 985	6 623	75 873
	<b>October</b>	3 438	2 761	13 586	3 418	8 559	2 269	13 919	3 546	4 473	3 411	17 081	7 310	83 769
	<b>November</b>	3 778	3 262	14 054	3 090	9 163	2 422	14 615	3 353	4 774	3 524	16 384	9 182	87 599
	<b>December</b>	3 266	3 084	15 392	2 008	7 362	1 819	14 023	1 807	2 453	2 541	12 609	7 598	73 962
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39 670</b>	<b>32 108</b>	<b>150 586</b>	<b>29 391</b>	<b>88 574</b>	<b>20 733</b>	<b>151 134</b>	<b>34 940</b>	<b>45 367</b>	<b>33 129</b>	<b>173 140</b>	<b>78 566</b>	<b>877 333</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>January</b>	2 986	3 039	13 263	1 813	6 918	573	13 441	2 845	3 340	2 577	15 834	6 073	72 701
	<b>February</b>	3 647	3 497	12 838	2 612	7 771	1 695	14 631	3 667	4 465	3 086	15 611	6 208	79 728
	<b>March</b>	3 613	2 860	13 442	2 463	6 961	1 979	17 191	3 839	4 263	2 862	17 462	6 253	83 188
	<b>April</b>	3 851	3 299	12 836	3 106	9 663	2 176	17 105	4 341	4 294	3 168	15 731	7 394	86 963
	<b>May</b>	3 896	3 878	13 461	2 827	8 357	1 995	19 034	4 350	4 472	3 556	16 902	7 639	90 368
	<b>June</b>	3 465	3 999	14 309	1 958	8 273	2 295	19 524	4 743	4 100	3 331	18 212	7 586	91 795
	<b>July</b>	4 629	4 502	13 442	1 799	8 498	1 770	21 224	4 873	4 493	4 144	18 356	7 521	95 250
	<b>August</b>	4 686	4 182	15 291	1 825	8 497	647	20 395	4 583	4 337	4 285	16 584	7 107	92 417
	<b>September</b>	4 322	3 789	14 842	2 108	9 246	1 077	18 434	4 199	4 410	3 731	20 029	7 318	93 505
	<b>October</b>	3 612	3 769	14 458	2 373	10 461	1 915	19 287	4 447	5 224	3 990	20 124	8 191	97 852
	<b>November</b>	3 381	4 579	16 965	2 509	9 836	1 757	18 405	3 647	4 771	4 028	21 863	9 861	101 602
	<b>December</b>	3 336	3 956	18 182	1 944	8 395	566	19 388	2 214	2 820	2 511	15 819	9 349	88 481
	<b>Total</b>	<b>45 424</b>	<b>45 349</b>	<b>173 329</b>	<b>27 337</b>	<b>102 876</b>	<b>18 445</b>	<b>218 059</b>	<b>47 748</b>	<b>50 989</b>	<b>41 269</b>	<b>212 527</b>	<b>90 500</b>	<b>1 073 850</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>January</b>	2 859	3 383	15 004	1 654	7 478	386	14 958	2 645	2 931	2 929	15 398	6 963	76 588
	<b>February</b>	3 269	3 408	15 017	2 412	7 916	823	12 132	2 656	3 710	2 681	16 326	7 641	77 992
	<b>March</b>	3 313	3 342	15 153	2 832	8 412	1 384	13 065	2 549	3 917	2 633	17 923	7 847	82 369

<sup>1/</sup> 2008 and 2009 figures are preliminary.

<sup>2/</sup> The figures have been rounded off. Therefore, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and the totals.

**Description of type of dealers included in indicated group types in Table 1 <sup>1/</sup>**

<b>Group type</b>	<b>Type of dealers included in group type</b>
<b>Type A</b>	<b>Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis</b>
<b>Type B</b>	<b>Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock</b>
<b>Type C</b>	<b>Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco</b>
<b>Type D</b>	<b>Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear</b>
<b>Type E</b>	<b>Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones</b>
<b>Type F</b>	<b>Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware</b>
<b>Type G</b>	<b>Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products</b>
<b>Type H</b>	<b>Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores</b>
<b>Type I</b>	<b>Wholesale trade in construction and building materials</b>
<b>Type J</b>	<b>Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap</b>
<b>Type K</b>	<b>Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies</b>
<b>Type L</b>	<b>Wholesale trade in other goods</b>

<sup>1/</sup> See note 4 on page 10.

Tables 2 and 3 show wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at current prices over the period January 2002 – March 2009. Table 4 shows seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at current prices over the same period.

**Table 2 – Total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)**

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 <sup>1/</sup>	2009 <sup>1/</sup>
January	34 827	37 849	39 623	44 336	49 213	60 806	72 701	76 588
February	36 696	43 299	44 751	46 408	53 971	65 220	79 728	77 992
March	39 029	44 542	48 444	49 559	58 412	69 832	83 188	82 369
April	38 882	41 288	43 264	50 966	52 913	64 062	86 963	
May	39 611	43 644	52 224	53 006	61 413	72 542	90 368	
June	38 915	45 089	53 777	54 961	62 147	72 651	91 795	
July	38 306	45 948	51 517	54 806	64 179	74 253	95 250	
August	39 481	44 102	52 545	56 457	66 649	76 764	92 417	
September	41 424	45 056	53 143	58 642	66 673	75 873	93 505	
October	46 486	47 450	57 533	60 608	71 025	83 769	97 852	
November	45 874	48 444	61 307	64 949	75 651	87 599	101 602	
December	41 633	41 407	52 896	56 198	65 760	73 962	88 481	
<b>Total</b>	<b>481 164</b>	<b>528 118</b>	<b>611 024</b>	<b>650 896</b>	<b>748 006</b>	<b>877 333</b>	<b>1 073 850</b>	

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary.

**Table 3 – Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at current prices <sup>1/</sup>**

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	-	8,7	4,7	11,9	11,0	23,6	19,6	5,3
February	-	18,0	3,4	3,7	16,3	20,8	22,2	-2,2
March	-	14,1	8,8	2,3	17,9	19,6	19,1	-1,0
April	-	6,2	4,8	17,8	3,8	21,1	35,7	
May	-	10,2	19,7	1,5	15,9	18,1	24,6	
June	-	15,9	19,3	2,2	13,1	16,9	26,4	
July	-	19,9	12,1	6,4	17,1	15,7	28,3	
August	-	11,7	19,1	7,4	18,1	15,2	20,4	
September	-	8,8	17,9	10,3	13,7	13,8	23,2	
October	-	2,1	21,2	5,3	17,2	17,9	16,8	
November	-	5,6	26,6	5,9	16,5	15,8	16,0	
December	-	-0,5	27,7	6,2	17,0	12,5	19,6	
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>9,8</b>	<b>15,7</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>14,9</b>	<b>17,3</b>	<b>22,4</b>	

<sup>1/</sup> The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade sales of the relevant year and those of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

**Table 4 – Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at current prices (R million)**

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	38 810	42 614	45 091	50 866	56 591	69 688	82 977	87 164
February	37 668	44 788	46 668	48 864	57 313	69 668	85 446	83 662
March	38 793	44 332	48 401	49 747	59 055	70 887	84 640	83 917
April	41 265	44 198	46 730	55 482	57 909	70 374	95 667	
May	39 395	43 309	51 842	52 510	60 786	71 746	89 403	
June	38 519	44 424	52 884	54 025	61 104	71 632	90 708	
July	39 004	46 467	51 607	54 412	63 167	72 669	92 879	
August	39 541	44 030	52 028	55 455	65 042	74 704	89 721	
September	40 734	44 195	51 927	57 267	65 056	74 059	91 272	
October	43 076	43 823	53 074	55 898	65 608	77 420	90 458	
November	41 663	43 540	54 636	57 505	66 835	77 404	89 968	
December	41 712	41 725	53 594	57 104	66 812	75 157	90 059	



Tables 5 and 6 show wholesale trade sales (actual values and annual percentage changes) at constant (2000) prices over the period January 2002 – March 2009. Table 7 shows seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales at constant prices over the same period.

**Table 5 – Total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)**

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 <sup>1/</sup>	2009 <sup>1/</sup>
January	29 985	30 171	31 787	34 828	36 699	41 113	44 088	42 549
February	30 967	34 446	35 701	36 327	40 187	43 978	47 684	43 474
March	32 647	35 435	38 678	38 582	43 284	46 446	48 762	45 862
April	31 988	32 860	34 214	39 356	38 821	41 925	49 950	
May	32 349	35 112	41 251	40 727	44 567	46 892	49 463	
June	31 651	35 799	41 785	41 606	43 827	45 967	48 957	
July	30 830	36 251	40 075	41 038	44 492	46 408	49 481	
August	31 472	34 932	40 843	42 085	45 370	47 724	47 761	
September	33 047	36 117	41 599	43 976	45 713	47 569	50 083	
October	36 835	38 051	44 825	45 433	48 267	52 014	52 665	
November	36 235	38 989	47 728	48 433	51 064	54 224	55 399	
December	33 016	33 285	41 373	41 876	44 583	45 613	48 804	
<b>Total</b>	<b>391 022</b>	<b>421 448</b>	<b>479 859</b>	<b>494 267</b>	<b>526 874</b>	<b>559 873</b>	<b>593 097</b>	

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary.

**Table 6 – Percentage change in total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices<sup>1/</sup>**

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	-	0,6	5,4	9,6	5,4	12,0	7,2	-3,5
February	-	11,2	3,6	1,8	10,6	9,4	8,4	-8,8
March	-	8,5	9,2	-0,2	12,2	7,3	5,0	-5,9
April	-	2,7	4,1	15,0	-1,4	8,0	19,1	
May	-	8,5	17,5	-1,3	9,4	5,2	5,5	
June	-	13,1	16,7	-0,4	5,3	4,9	6,5	
July	-	17,6	10,5	2,4	8,4	4,3	6,6	
August	-	11,0	16,9	3,0	7,8	5,2	0,1	
September	-	9,3	15,2	5,7	3,9	4,1	5,3	
October	-	3,3	17,8	1,4	6,2	7,8	1,3	
November	-	7,6	22,4	1,5	5,4	6,2	2,2	
December	-	0,8	24,3	1,2	6,5	2,3	7,0	
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>7,8</b>	<b>13,9</b>	<b>3,0</b>	<b>6,6</b>	<b>6,3</b>	<b>5,9</b>	

<sup>1/</sup> The percentage change is the difference between wholesale trade of the relevant year and those of the previous year expressed as a percentage.

**Table 7 – Seasonally adjusted total wholesale trade sales at constant 2000 prices (R million)**

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	33 379	33 878	35 991	39 654	41 752	46 478	49 514	47 590
February	31 785	35 577	37 053	37 896	42 081	46 170	50 124	45 703
March	32 454	35 161	38 380	38 332	43 161	46 384	48 746	45 887
April	33 842	34 952	36 619	42 338	41 930	45 402	54 174	
May	32 145	34 764	40 818	40 233	44 050	46 400	48 996	
June	31 431	35 448	41 400	41 326	43 665	46 021	49 176	
July	31 478	36 859	40 519	41 342	44 669	46 534	49 525	
August	31 704	35 191	40 968	41 994	45 063	47 308	47 273	
September	32 420	35 429	40 725	43 097	44 803	46 666	49 149	
October	34 127	35 195	41 465	42 055	44 748	48 241	48 849	
November	32 879	35 034	42 523	42 848	45 023	47 779	48 898	
December	33 092	33 516	41 824	42 389	45 094	46 116	49 406	

**Table 8 – Estimates and percentage changes in total wholesale trade sales**

Outlined below in tables 8.1 and 8.2 are the percentage changes in wholesale trade sales at current prices, constant (2000) prices and seasonally adjusted estimates.

**Table 8.1 – Quarterly estimates and percentage changes**

Wholesale trade sales estimates	January to March 2008 (R million)	January to March 2009 (R million)	% change between January to March 2008 and January to March 2009
At current prices	235 617	236 949	0,6
At constant 2000 prices	140 534	131 885	-6,2

**Table 8.2 – Seasonally adjusted estimates with monthly and quarterly percentage changes**

Seasonally adjusted wholesale trade sales estimates	February 2009 (R million)	March 2009 (R million)	% change between February and March 2009	October to December 2008 (R million)	January to March 2009 (R million)	% change between October to December 2008 and January to March 2009
At current prices	83 662	83 917	0,3	270 485	254 743	-5,8
At constant 2000 prices	45 703	45 887	0,4	147 153	139 180	-5,4

## Explanatory notes

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>	Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducts a monthly survey of the wholesale trade industry, covering wholesale enterprises (see 4 below). This survey is based on a sample drawn from the 2008 Business Sampling Frame (BSF) that contains businesses registered for value-added tax (VAT).
	<b>2</b>	As is usual, information for the latest month has had to be estimated for respondents who have not reported by the cut-off date for production of results. These estimates will be revised in future statistical releases when their reported information becomes available. Published wholesale trade sales estimates exclude VAT.
<b>Purpose of the survey</b>	<b>3</b>	The results of the monthly wholesale trade sales survey are used to compile estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and its components, which are used in monitoring the state of the economy and formulation of economic policy. These statistics are also used in the analysis of comparative business and industry performance.
<b>Scope of the survey</b>	<b>4</b>	<p>This survey covers wholesale enterprises according to the following types of dealer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis</li> <li>• Sales by commission agents, commodity brokers, auctioneers and other wholesale trade on a fee or contract basis;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in agricultural raw materials and livestock;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in food, beverages and tobacco;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in textiles, clothing and footwear;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other household goods except precious stones</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in household furniture, requisites and appliances, wholesale trade in books and stationery, wholesale trade in pharmaceuticals and toiletries and wholesale trade in other household goods not elsewhere classified;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in precious stones, jewellery and silverware;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in metals and metal ores;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in construction and building materials</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in machinery, equipment and supplies;</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other intermediate products, waste and scrap; and</li> <li>• Wholesale trade in other goods</li> <li>• General wholesale trade and other wholesale trade not elsewhere classified.</li> </ul>
<b>Classification</b>	<b>5</b>	The 1993 edition of the <i>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC)</i> , Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 <i>International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)</i> with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Statistics in this publication are presented at SIC division (four digit) level. Each enterprise is classified to the industry which reflects its predominant activity.
<b>Response rate</b>	<b>6</b>	The preliminary response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for March 2009 was 92,8%. The final response rate for the survey on wholesale trade sales for February 2009 was 97,3%.
<b>Statistical unit</b>	<b>7</b>	The statistical unit for which information is compiled and published is the enterprise, defined as a legal unit or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.
<b>Survey methodology and design</b>	<b>8</b>	The survey is conducted monthly. Questionnaires are sent to a sample of about 1 000 enterprises from a population of about 21 000 enterprises. Completed questionnaires are required to be returned to Stats SA within 10 days after the end of the reference month. Fax and telephone reminders are used to follow up non-respondents.

- 9** The value of sales is obtained monthly from the sample of about 1 000 enterprises (which was drawn in April 2008 at the SIC four-digit level) from a population of about 21 000 wholesale enterprises. The wholesale industry is divided into four size groups. All large enterprises (size group one) are completely enumerated. Simple random sampling is applied to the remaining size groups (medium, small and very small size enterprises). The total value of sales of the large enterprises (size group one) is added to the weighted totals of size groups two, three and four to reflect the total value of sales.
- Weighting methodology** **10** For those strata not completely enumerated, the weights to produce estimates are the inverse ratio of the sampling fraction, modified to take account of non-response in the survey. Stratum estimates are calculated and then aggregated with the completely enumerated stratum to form division estimates. These procedures, which are in line with international best practice, are described in more detail on the Stats SA website at <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/publicationsearch.asp>.
- Constant prices** **11** The total sales at constant prices are calculated using a combination of the Production Price Indices (PPI) for consumption in South Africa and for total output of South African industry groups to deflate the sales at current prices. However, with the discontinuation of the PPI for consumption in South Africa in January 2008, total sales at constant prices are calculated using the total output of South African industry groups from the PPI to deflate the sales at current prices.
- Seasonal adjustment** **12** Seasonally adjusted estimates are generated each month, using the X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program developed by the US Bureau of the Census, 1968. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove irregular or non-seasonal influences, which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile or unsystematic can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variations. Therefore the month-to-month movements of seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour.
- Trend cycle** **13** The trend is the long-term pattern or movement of a time series. The X-11 Seasonal Adjustment Program is used for smoothing seasonally adjusted estimates to estimates of the underlying trend cycle.
- Reliability of estimates** **14** Data presented in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample and are, therefore, subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the data had been obtained from all enterprises in the wholesale industry in South Africa. Estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Preliminary figures are indicated in the tables.
- 15** Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Fluctuations may occur in consecutive months as a result of seasonal and economic factors.
- Revised figures** **16** Revised figures are due to respondents reporting revisions or corrections to their figures and late submission of their data to Stats SA. Preliminary figures are indicated in the relevant tables. Data are edited at the enterprise level.
- Related publications** **17** Users may also wish to refer to the following publications available from Stats SA -
- *Bulletin of Statistics* issued quarterly.
  - *SA Statistics* issued annually.
- Rounding of figures** **18** Where figures have been rounded-off discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and the totals.

**Pre-release policy**            **19**    Stats SA's pre-release policy may be inspected at its Website, [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za).

**Symbols and abbreviations**            **20**

BSF	Business Sampling Frame
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
SARS	South African Revenue Service
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
VAT	Value-added tax
*	Revised
-	Figures not available

**Technical note**

**Neyman optimal allocation**

A stratified random sample was drawn from the population of enterprises on the Business Sampling Frame (BSF). Strata were formed using a combination of Standard Industrial Classification and the measure of size classes for enterprises. The Neyman optimal allocation formula given below was used to allocate samples to each stratum.

$$n_h = \frac{N_h S_h}{\sum N_h S_h}$$

where  $N_h$  and  $S_h$  are the stratum population size and the stratum variance, respectively.

Neyman allocation formula not only allocates sample sizes to each stratum but also calculates the relative precision for each stratum as well as the relative precision for all strata. The relative precision for these strata did not exceed 4,8%.

**Class limits**

Enterprise size	Size Group	Lower limits	Upper limits
Very small	4	0	6 000 000
Small	3	6 000 001	32 000 000
Medium	2	32 000 001	64 000 000
Large	1	64 000 001	

**Glossary**

**Enterprise**

The enterprise is a legal entity or a combination of legal units that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its sales activities.

**Industry**

An industry is made up of enterprises engaged in the same or similar kinds of economic activity. Industries are defined in the *System of National Accounts (SNA)* in the same way as in the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-90-02 of March 1993 (SIC)*.

**Statistical unit**

A statistical unit is a unit about which statistics are tabulated, compiled or published. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.

**Wholesale trade**

Wholesale trade includes the resale (sale without transformation) of new and used goods and products to other wholesalers, retailers, agricultural, industrial, commercial, institutional and professional users either directly or through agents on a fee or contract basis.

**Wholesaler**

A wholesaler is an enterprise deriving 50% or more of its turnover from sales of goods to other businesses and institutions.

## General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

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